Employment-oriented graduate/post-graduate courses

3806. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the University Grants Commission proposes to restructure under graduate and post-graduate courses to ensure that they were employment-oriented ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the new vocational courses to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC has constituted a Committee to revise the Career-Oriented (Vocational) Courses. The aim of the proposed revision is to make the career-oriented programme more flexible and need based and will be introduced as add-on courses. There is, however, no proposal to add new vocational courses.

Military Training a part of education

3807. SHRIDATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up a Task Force to examine the feasibility of making military training a compulsory part of education;

(b) if so, the composition of the Task Force and terms and reference of the Task Force;

(c) by when, the Task Force is likely to submit its report to Government; and

(d) what other steps Government propose to take to enforce military training subject compulsory at school and college levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) The Government has constituted a Task Force on 26th February, 2003, under the Chairmanship of Shri Anand Samp, Former Secretary (Education) with the following persons as members :—

(i) Dr. Arun Nigavekar, Chairman, University Grants Commission

(ii) Prof. R. Natarajan, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education

(iii) Dr. K. Harinarayana, Vice-Chancellor, Hyderabad University

(iv) Prof. Rupa B. Shah, Vice-Chancellor, SNDT University, Mumbai

(v) Shri G. Nancharaiah, Vice-Chancellor, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow

(vi) Dr. D. S. Chauhan, Vice-Chancellor, UP Technical University, Lucknow

(vii) Shri Ashok Ganguly, Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education

(viii) Prof. P. V. Krishna Bhat, Executive Committee Member, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

(ix) Shri C. Balakrishnan, Joint Secretary (Planning), M/o Human Resource Development - Member Secretary.

2. The Task Force will examine various issues affecting the student community including the following :—

(f) Commercialization of education and ways of curbing the same through measures like rationalization of fee structure in various courses in the country;

(ii) Impact of inflation on recipients of scholarships and possibility of Linking scholarships to the price index;

(iii) Grant of exemption from income tax for all endowments given for the purpose of education;

(iv) To instil moral and physical strength and discipline by making social service works and military training compulsory part of education;

(v) Dovetailing the education curriculum to the National culture, needs and aspirations;

(vi) Establishing women universities and women hostels in each district;

(vii) Improvement in the conditions of hostels for SC and ST students; and

(viii) Expansion of professional education.

3. The Task Force will examine the above mentioned issues and submit its recommendations to the Government within six months from the date of issue of the order constituting the Task Force.

Private participation in building gymnasiums/swimming pools in KVS

3808. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) across the country have invited private participation to build and operate gymnasiums and swimming pools for their schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has the approval of the Ministry;

(d) if so, the reasons for according permission for construction of facilities within the school premises on a build, operate and transfer basis; and

(e) *modus operandi* to be followed for safety and security of the school and its students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN :THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.